

1           SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TRANSMITTING AND UTILIZING  
            ELECTRONIC PROGRAMS GUIDE INFORMATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           Television schedule information transmission and  
utilization systems transmit TV schedule data and associated  
network control messages provided by computer as packets via  
the Video Blanking Interval (VBI) lines in the TV signal from  
various television program providers. This data is acquired  
10 by regional data processing systems and forwarded by the  
regional data processing systems to subscriber units and used  
to construct an internal database. This internal database can  
be accessed by the subscriber unit to display a TV schedule  
for the channels that are received by the user's TV.

15

20

25

30

35